Rama Varmha Tampuran—We have called for a report on that point.

Mr. K. G. Nayar—Is there any special reason for this concession given to this contractor? When he was allowed to trade on one day Rs. 100 was collected. Now he trades on 3 days, and only Rs. 100 is collected. Is there any special reason for giving this concession to the contractor?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It is exactly on this point that the Government have called for a report four or five days ago.

Mr. K. G. Nayar.—What was the necessity to call for a report four or five days back?

President.—Question time is over.

Commission collected by the Ottupara arecanut Market contractor on arecanut brought to the market.

270. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) what is the commission which the Ottupara arecant market licensee is allowed to collect on arecanut that is brought there?

(b) what does he collect actually?

(c) has not the licensee admitted in his deposition as witness of the defendant (Sirkar) in the case referred to at page 1023, Volume III, part 12, Third Series of Council Proceedings that he is collecting excessive commissions?

Rama Varmha Tampuran—(a) The fee is collected in kind, *i. e.* one land-full from every bundle of nut that is sold in the market. No fee is, however, collected from a bundle returned unsold. This kind of collection is called "ഓരം" and it is common to all arceanut markets. Over and above this a sum of annas four is collected by the market owner on every Thulam (1500 Rs. Wt.) of nut sold as a remuneration for drying, storing, packing and forwarding the articles to the Railway station. The licensee of the Ottupara market is collecting the fees detailed above.

(b) Vide answer to (a) above.

(c) Government have no information.

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